

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 14903 090731Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8880

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 14903

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOMBAY 2645 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI
INFO CALCUTTA/MADRAS 08 OCT 76.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 2645

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: BHAVE POSTPONES INTELLECTUAL'S CONFERENCE

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SARVODAYA SOURCES, ACHARYA BHAVE'S OCTOBER 6 DECISION TO POSTPONE A LARGE "ACHARYA SAMMELAN" (INTELLECTUAL'S CONFERENCE) CLEARLY INDICATES DESIRE TO AVOID FURTHER CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOI AT THIS STAGE. AT THE INSTANCE OF THE ACHARYA THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED FOR END OF THIS MONTH, WAS ANNOUNCED BY SARVODAYA LEADER SHRIMAN NARAYAN AT NAGPUR.

2. THE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE ACHARYA HAS REALIZED THE LIMITATION OF HIS EFFECTIVENESS VIS-A-VIS MRS. GANDHI. THIS BECAME EVIDENT WHEN HE RECENTLY WITHDREW HIS THREAT OF AN INDEFINITE FAST, EVEN THOUGH HIS DEMAND FOR A NATIONWIDE LEGAL BAN ON THE SLAUGHTER OF COWS WAS NOT FULLY MET. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND IN VIEW OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SAMMELAN, IT IS MORE THAN CLEAR THAT THE ACHARYA DOES NOT FAVOR CONFRONTATION.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 14903 090731Z

3. FURTHER, OUR SOURCES STATE HE NOW WANTS MRS. GHANDI TO

ACCELERATE THE PROCESS OF "LIBERALIZATION," WHICH BHAVE BELIEVES SHE HAS RECENTLY INITIATED. HIS PUBLICIZED STATEMENT THAT HE NOW HOPES THAT "NECESSARY STEPS WILL BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS EARLY IN A FAIR MANNER" IS IN A WAY ADVANCE NOTICE OF MRS. GHANDI'S THINKING, THE SOURCES BELIEVE.

4. ACCORDING TO THEM, BHAVE'S SATISFACTION OVER SOME OF MRS. GHANDI'S RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS WHICH LED TO HIS POSTPONEMENT OF THE ACHARYA SAMMELAN, WILL HAVE A FURTHER DEMORALIZING EFFECT ON THE OPPOSITION. AS A RESULT, THEY BELIEVE, THE OPPOSITION CAN NO LONGER RELY UPON THE ACHARYA.

5. THUS MRS. GANDHI HAS WON OVER, OR AT LEAST NEUTRALIZED, THE ACHARYA, FIRST BY AT LEAST PARTIALLY CONCEDED TO HIS DEMAND FOR A BAN ON COW SLAUGHTER AND SECONDLY BY SATISFYING HIM BY SOME OF HER RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS.

COURTNEY

UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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